



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



November 6, 2012

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County Of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**RESPONSE TO THE AUDITOR-CONTROLLER'S REVIEW OF MARITIME
OPERATIONS REPORT**

On April 3, 2012, the Board instructed the Auditor-Controller to review the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (Department) boating and waterway (Maritime) operations. Attached is the Department's response to the Auditor Controller's report dated October 4, 2012. The Department is in general agreement with the report's seven recommendations.

The Maritime management is working to implement the Auditor-Controller's recommendations.

If there are questions regarding the Department's response, please contact Assistant Director Glen Dragovich at (323) 526-5191 or Commander Eric Hamilton at (323) 526-5037.

Sincerely,

LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF

A Tradition of Service

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER'S REVIEW OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MARITIME OPERATIONS AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1: SHERIFF'S MARITIME OPERATIONS

The Department improve the tracking and evaluation of Maritime operations' objectives, resource usage, and activities.

Sheriff's Response: Agree

The Department is currently researching the best options to implement centralized tracking for Maritime operations. While current personnel and equipment costs are tracked, as well as enforcement activities, the Department is researching a much broader and centralized approach.

RECOMMENDATION 2: SHERIFF'S VESSELS

The Department evaluate their current vessels to ensure they are appropriate for their assigned usage.

Sheriff's Response: Agree

The Department continually evaluates its Maritime fleet and progressively upgrades its equipment and vessels as technology improves, mission parameters evolve and budgets allow. Safety over the fleet is paramount to each and every mission, therefore, we will look at others' practices; such as those of the Coast Guard and other Maritime agencies to enhance our fleets usage.

RECOMMENDATION 3: SHERIFF'S MARITIME STAFFING

The Department evaluate unit staffing and consider training additional deputies to operate vessels.

Sheriff's Response: Agree

The Department will evaluate staffing levels at each of its Maritime units and the funding of additional boat handlers as feasible. It should be noted that all Sheriff Maritime units and boat handlers assess each mission, and do operate beyond the limits of the crew and vessel's capabilities for the given circumstances.

RECOMMENDATION 4: SHERIFF'S MARITIME STAFFING

The Department evaluate the feasibility of obtaining customs officer cross-designation for boat operators in other appropriate Sheriff's units.

Sheriff's Response: Agree

The Department will evaluate the feasibility of obtaining US Customs Officer cross-designation for deputies conducting off-shore Border security and anti-Maritime smuggling operations to further enhance the Department's mission of Homeland Security.

RECOMMENDATION 5: VESSEL ACQUISITION AND OPERATING COSTS

The Department record all vessels in eCAPS, including the acquisition method and total cost/value of acquiring and outfitting vessels for use.

Sheriff's Response: Agree

The Department will ensure that all vessels are properly recorded in eCAPS, including the method of acquisition and total cost/value of acquiring and outfitting the vessel.

RECOMMENDATION 6: VESSEL ACQUISITION AND OPERATING COSTS

The Department consider tracking Maritime operating costs separately.

Sheriff's Response: Agree

The Department is currently researching the best options to implement the tracking of Maritime operating costs.

RECOMMENDATION 7: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Department evaluate the feasibility of consolidating all Maritime operations into an existing unit.

Sheriff's Response: Agree

The Department has established an effective command structure for accountability and reporting procedures through its area patrol stations, specialized units, and divisional commands. The Department's Maritime operations are only one integral part of each Sheriff station's/unit's overall responsibility, therefore, each unit commander must coordinate Maritime operations into its total mission. The Department will evaluate its current command structure for feasible improvements to enhance efficiency of Sheriff Maritime operations.